Fact Finding –
Sports in Templemore &
the North Melbourne Club Connection

Working Paper

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TEMPLEMORE SEEDS DROPPED IN GRAHAM'S PADDOCK

Irish immigration backdrop to football in young Melbourne

The Templemore Citizen-Garrison style of football was particularly intense in Royal Park and originated in Graham's Paddock, Hotham Hill, near North Melbourne, during the winter of 1858. This was two years after the Irish residents of the North Melbourne area celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a match of the near rules-less Irish folk football on a field that would later become the Flemington racecourse.

That 1856 game most likely involved members of the small village of Footscray and members of the Irish community of Williamstown as well. Whereas, publican of Connelly's hotel in Footscray, Mr. John Connolly who no doubt attended, cannot be ruled out as a close blood relative of John Kidd Guest's (1831-1871) wife, Matilda Mangham Guest (1835-1884), nee Connolly,[1] booth late of 34 Leveson Street North Melbourne.

Starting in the winter of 1858, the Guest and White families, connected through marriage in Templemore, were later in Graham's Paddock by the Bracken family and possibly the Rudd families also from Templemore. These branches established in Melbourne from 1858, had immediate descendants who were documented in contemporary newspaper articles and known to be some of the earliest members of the North Melbourne Cricket and Football Club.

These family's all had close blood relatives of the same generation, who immigrated from Ireland to Port Adelaide and survived the ill-fated ship Marion journey to Port Adelaide. Surviving ship wreck near Port Adelaide on the 29th July 1851 their ancestors made their way progressively to join their patrilineal family members preferring to live in the Colony of Victoria from 1857. At least one member of each family Guest, Rudd, Bracken [add also Hodgkins], and White continued on to Melbourne to settle, respectively in North Melbourne and nearby Albert Park.[2]

The Templemore cluster of foundation members of the North Melbourne Football Club

The narrative that Irish football significantly influenced the North Melbourne Football Club rather than Rugby, is supported by modern evidence of the social connections among the Guest, White, Rudd and Bracken families.

These families, linked through migration in 1857 from the small village of Templemore in the mid-1840s, settling in Hotham to continue playing the recreational games they loved back home and joined many other cross-community ex pat Anglo and Indigenous Irish, protestant and catholic, Guest, White and Bracken families in particular maintaining lasting ties of friendship and marriage, highlighting their shared heritage in both cricket and football prior to the establishment of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), and transplanted in Hotham's Royal Park.[3]

[1] Matilda Guest 1835-1884, was born "Mary Ann Connolly" 1835-1884 in Dublin, Ireland and daughter of Thomas Connolly late of Mantooth, just outside of Dublin City.
[2] Marion's Passenger List 1851, Facsimile of hand written original [pre-transcribed and pre-typed original] for families Guest, Rudd, Bracken, White & Hodgkins of Templemore Tipperary, Ireland, pp3-6, p9, State Library of South Australia, State Records of South Australia, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
[3] Guest, J. L. R. 2024, pp253-257, Guest Patrilineal Heritage, 24th September 2024.

The first of the Guest family of Hotham arrived in Melbourne in March 1857, when patriarch John Kidd (1831-1871) disembarked from the passenger James Baines.[4] He was one of around 290, 000 immigrants to Australia during the 1850s, with over 200,000 being unassisted and had monetary means.

Family lore has him arriving with money hidden in his socks, so to speak and part of a settlement plan initiated by his elder father of the same name and elder and only brother, William Langford Guest (1824-1897) (Senior).[5]

William explored business opportunities in the Colonies first arriving in Adelaide in 1852 along with their cousin, Thomas Guest (1807-1875) and Henry Rudd's family, later residents of Footscray.

William then travelled to Melbourne, perhaps Tasmania and arrived back home in Templemore Tipperary around 1854. William and cousin Thomas Guest and his young family, as well as members of the White and Rudd families all arrived in Adelaide after all surviving the Marion shipwreck. [6] The Guest family were not rescued for five days and first clung to debris and were washed up on shore of Kangaroos Island including all three children, all under the age of 7 who survived.

Recognisance for a place to settle in the Australian colonies

Preferring opportunities in the Colony of Victoria over the Colony of South Australia, John's brother, born William Langford Guest [I] (1824-1898), and listed on the Marion ships list as in 1851 as 27 years old William Guest, and later of England, made his way to Melbourne. He was surveying the locations in the colonies on behalf of the Guest, Bracken, White, Rudd and Hodgkin party. Hereafter referred to as the Guest party, to help settle a sub-community of the Templemore people in Australia over joining family members who had migrated earlier from Tipperary to Ontario Canada.

After William returned to Ireland first to take his advice to go to Melbourne were Henry Hodgkins (1828-) and Daniel White (1833-) who arrived prior to 1857 with their families. Further motivated by what he heard from his brother, the young John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) immigrated to Melbourne in March 1857 aboard the ship James Baines. He did so after attending on-route to Melbourne, his brother William's wedding near Kings Norton England and travelled from Templemore with his siters and their father John Guest (1786-1864). It was near Kings Norton, Worcestershire his family gave him their best wishes and farewells, whilst remaining in regular contact, his siblings and father would never lay eyes upon him again.[7]

[4] Ibid, p232, 247, p344.
[5] John and Matilda Guest, nee Connolly's first-born William Langford Guest 1860-922 [II] became NMFC's treasurer & VFA delegate in 1884 and 1885. He was named after his uncle, who returned to Ireland and later of England.
[6] Obituary for Mr. James Henry Guest, Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, Horsham Times, 23" May 1911, page 4.
[7] Ibid, Guest J.L.R. 2024, p344.

Following this advice, John, aged 26 years opened two clothier and draper stores[8] [9]in Melbourne's respected banking district by the end of 1857, [10] [11] likely residing above one of them. He was supported in his start up by his father (mentor) who remained in contact and may have planned to have joined in his youngest son in Melbourne, but died in Ireland in 1864.

He, John Guest (1831-187) along with other new Irish settlers also interested in football and cricket playing being organised at Graham's Paddock at the end of King Street (Hotham Hill) and also heard by the organisers who were purchasing their cricket whites from him.

John signed up so to speak, as a member of the North Melbourne Cricket Club *come* Football Club in 1858 and after playing games at Graham's Paddock then followed suit in Royal Park from 1860.[12] [13]

Rumours of an elopement or planned meeting between Matilda Connolly, probably true, saw Matilda, the author's paternal grandmother, employed as seamstress for John. They married in Melbourne in 1858, settling by 1860 to live in a fine residence, 158 Wellington Street, Collingwood, [14] which still stands. Their first child, William Langford Guest [II] (1860-1922), was born, and , as previously noted, he was given the name of his uncle, John's only brother of seven siblings. [15]

John's migration was soon followed by two other families from the Parish of Modreeny and Templemore, the James White senior's family, [16] and shortly after, the Bracken family joined them in Melbourne.[17] Known as John "Kidd" Guest, the author's paternal grandfather, established a two drapery stores, and a small chain of small grocery and bakery stores and also obtaining his shipping agents licence. [18] [19] Just prior to his death in 1870 aged only 39 years he was about to embark on his largest business venture the Guest Wine & Spirit Merchants store.[20] He was embedded socially and enjoying the culture of the North Melbourne Football Club playing football and cricket first in Graham's Paddock, Hotham Hill and then on the club's Royal Park ground from 1860.

[8] Victorian Birth, Death & Marriages Register (VBDM). Birth Registration Number: 3564; Birth - Archibald Guest, Father: John Guest; Father's Occupation: Draper; Mother Matilda Guest; Maiden Name: Connolly.
[9] VBDM, BRN, 22060; Birth - John Henry Guest, Father: John Guest; Father's Occupation: Draper; Mother Matilda Guest; Maiden Name: Connolly.
[10] Sands & Kenny, 1858, Melbourne Directory, page 145.
[11] Sands & Kenny 1859, Melbourne Directory, page 86.
[12] Royal Park cleared for Playing Cricket, Football & Other Games in 1858/9," Sanderson, W., 1932, p7, M.A., L.L.D, Early History of Royal Park 1844-193.
[13] Victoria History Magazine, Vol XIV, No. 3, May, 1932.
[14] Sands, Kenny & Co., Sands, Kenny & Co's Commercial and General Melbourne Directory for 1860/1861, p210.
[15] Ibid, Guest J.L.R. 2024, pp344-345.
[16] Football, Amateur Contributor, Weekly Times on Saturday, May 20, 1876.
[17] The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 16th August 1872, Page 3, FOOTBALL
[18] ABI William Guest; Father's occupation: Shipping agent; RN.
[19] Ibid, Guest J.L.R. 2024, pp361-374.
[20] Guest & Co, Grocers, Wine and Spirit Merchants in 1871 Sands and McDougall Melbourne and Suburban Directory, page 125.

Family ties to the North Melbourne and Footscray Cricket and Football Clubs

Whilst no letters between the families survive no doubt, they existed to facilitate cluster migrations and cross family re-unification with pioneer family members all born in Templemore becoming members of the North Melbourne Football Club throughout is formative years, and perhaps also John Connelly, Matilda Guest's presumptive positive uncle with the Footscray Recreational Society, which was the Footscray Cricket and Football Club in modern day vernacular in 1860.

John's friend James "Jim" White, of Wrecklyn Street Hotham, a relative due to his brother John White's marriage to John Kidd Guest's older sister Margaret White (1820-), nee Guest, born Cloughjordan, Tipperary Ireland in 1840.[21]

This White family pioneers of North Melbourne pre-dating its name change to Hotham reverted back to North Melbourne in 1873, lived nearby, to the Guest family later settled at 34 Leveson Street, Hotham,[22] around the corner so to speak close to Jim's family. John and Jim's sons, respectively Archie Guest and Dan White were cousins and boyhood friends.[23]

His descendent families know from court record uncovered by the present author that Archie and Dan were both fined 5 pound each for Larakin behaviour after being found drunk. Archie leaving in Williamstown at the time joined Dan to celebrate Archie receiving his share of inheritance which was not an inconsiderable sum and their drinking got out of hand. They were arrested and later subsequently fined for their misconduct.

Whilst their offence was not flattering to either of these two 20 years old the record further helps to tie them together in time, place and context of their shared neighbourhood in which Errol Street North Melbourne was central.

The exact timing of the Bracken family's arrival in Melbourne is unclear, but they became part of the Hotham community and the North Melbourne Football Club.[24] John Kidd Guest's friendship with Lochlan and William Bracken's father,[25] fostered a multi-generational bond among the Templemore families in Hotham/North Melbourne including their offspring.[26]

Anecdotal, John Guest, come John Kidd Guest's grassroots involvement in helping form the embryonic North Melbourne Football Club, highlights his legacy, particularly as his sons Will, Jack, and Archie became pioneering players and office bearers in the club, with Jack serving as the first premiership coach. The family connection to the football and cricket clubs spans the 1860s, 70s and 80s.

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[21] Ireland, Indexes to Wills, Probate Administration, Marriage Bonds and Licences, 1591-1866,
Record details – Name: John White; Record Type: Marriage; Marriage Date: 1840; Marriage Place Eire, Ireland; Registration Place: Ireland; Diocese: Killaloe [Templemore, Tipperary], Spouse: Margaret Guest.

[22] Melbourne Street, residents - John Kidd Guest and Matilda Guest, nee Connolly, 34 Leveson Street, Hotham [North Melbourne VIC 3051, source: Melbourne Council archives.

[23] Ibid, Guest J.L.R. 2024, pp344-345.

24 John's connection to the NMCC & FC from 1858/9 is notably strong based on anecdotes. While the documentary evidence linking him a member of the club requires a confirming document, it is clear from documentary evidence that his three sons continued to be associated with the club after his time.

[25] The offspring of John K. Guest's friends' family's White, Bracken, Barwise, Buncle, Lording, Kearney and McInerney all remained social acquaintances as members of either/or the NMCC & FC and near neighbours living in Hotham and nearby for decades.

[26] "EMPIRE DAY" Queensberry School, cited Mr W. Bracken and Mrs Bracken, North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 28th May 1909, Page 2.

The author's great grandfather John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), is recognised below as one of seven known relatives among a total of 20 recorded young males eligible for selection on these teams during that time. The only civilian Templemore team from this period began against military barrack teams in the late 1830s and about 7 years after the break away football game styled in Templemore as the Templemore Citizen-Garrison rules football game can be traced back to the sone of a British soldier abandoning English folk football convention in a match in 1823 in Tipperary. [27]

Pre-Australian sport history of the North Melbourne Football Clubs Templemore cluster

Templemore Tipperary is in the East Munster provenance of Ireland which is confirmed by the GAA as the birth place of the pre-GAA codified game of Irish football arising from citizen v Garrison teams since 1840:[28]

The Guest family had strong ties including farming and other interest in nearby Cloughjordan as far back as 1738 after settling in Tipperary from Dublin.

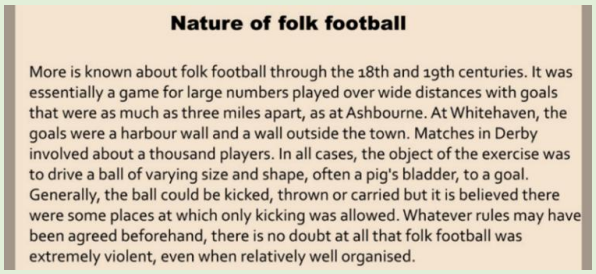
[27] In Ireland, the first player associated with what would later evolve into the Templemore Citizen-Garrison rules was Mr. Ellis from Tipperary. In 1823, Ellis introduced innovative play that distinguished it from traditional folk games. The spectators were so impressed with his new style of running and aerial kicking that by the 1860s, the Templemore extension of the pre-GAA game had developed into the recognisable organised competition among Munster teams. This no doubt included the Templemore Citizen and Garrison Clubs which had played among themselves for two decades prior with their local friendly competition emerging from the Harvest from the 1830s. Shortly thereafter and facilitated by the organisation of John Kidd Guest's father, shopkeeper John Guest, along with his brother James Guest and their brother-in-law, Minchin Rudd, the publican of the Templemore Commercial Hotel, were regular fixtured games played on the Garrison field up until at least 1860.

[28] "Before the potato famine of the 1840s which proved hugely detrimental to all Irish sports, a codified game had emerged in East Munster. By the late 1860s nearly every town had its own cricket club, patronised by members of the local loyalist community and supported by the local garrison." (GAA Official Website, Football History and Evolution, https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/getting-involved/football-history-and-evolution).

It is in Templemore John Kidd Guest is mentioned as a sportsman playing cricket and pre-GAA football below, alongside his elder brother, cousins, and the five Bracken brothers, who are also to have participated. According to Dr. Patrick Bracken's 2024 estimate, the town's population did not exceed 20 men of playing age range, indicating that there were few others in the appropriate age range who could have played for the Templemore Citizen Football Club between the mid-1840s and 1857:

- William Langford Guest [I] (1824-1897), late of Worcestershire, England - son of John Guest, Esq, one of 15 Town Commissioner of Templemore – Chair Sir John Carden).
- John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), late of Hotham, Victoria – ditto son of John Guest, Esq
- His three sons played for North Melbourne Football Club, and youngest of the three, Archie Guest (1866-1932) went on to play with Williamstown Football Club.
- Thomas Guest (1807-1875), late of the Colony of Victoria - son of James Guest (1788-1853), Esq.
- James Guest (1810-1890), late of Cloughjordan – ditto son of James Guest, Esq.
- Joseph Guest (1818-1878), late of Roscrea – ditto son of James Guest, Esq.
- Henry Guest (1824-1885), late of Footscray, Colony of Victoria – ditto son of James Guest, Esq.
- William James Rudd (1835-1915), late of New Zealand – son of Minchin Rudd, Esq.
- James White, the younger, son of James White senior and the father of James [J.W.] White, St Mary's Church of England school football club under 10s in 1870 and R. White respectively 1880s and 1870s North Melbourne football club players.
- Patrick Bracken (1830-1887) father of Jospeh Kevin Bracken (1854-1902) – co founder of GAA.
- James Bracken (1831-1887) father of Lochie and Billy Bracken one-time North Melbourne Football Club players.
- Thomas Bracken (1833-1895) died Pascoe Vale, Melbourne.
- Andrew Bracken (1834-1899), died West Australia.
- William Jospeh Bracken (1838-1904) died New Zealand.

John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), who lived in Hotham/North Melbourne and previously in Templemore, Tipperary, along with his ex-Templemore teammates passing down to their offspring all tied to North Melbourne Football Club on how to play football the Irish way first at Graham's paddock then in Royal Park and subsequently Arden Street Oval. As noted by Dr. Patrick Bracken in 2024,[29] and indicated in 2018 [30] and 2014[31] John K. Guest played from 1844 to 1857 the pre-GAA game of football alongside his friend and Dr Bracken's ancestor Patrick Bracken, the father of J.K. Bracken (1854-1902):



Nature of folk football

More is known about folk football through the 18th and 19th centuries. It was essentially a game for large numbers played over wide distances with goals that were as much as three miles apart, as at Ashbourne. At Whitehaven, the goals were a harbour wall and a wall outside the town. Matches in Derby involved about a thousand players. In all cases, the object of the exercise was to drive a ball of varying size and shape, often a pig's bladder, to a goal. Generally, the ball could be kicked, thrown or carried but it is believed there were some places at which only kicking was allowed. Whatever rules may have been agreed beforehand, there is no doubt at all that folk football was extremely violent, even when relatively well organised.

[29] Bracken's expert insights shared on the matter via email exchange between 2023 and 2024.
[30] C.f., Bracken, P, PhD, 2018, Development of Sport in County Tipperary, 1840-1880", Cork University Press, 2018.
[31] Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary" Thurles, 2014.

John Guest., also known as J.K. Guest (1831-1871), further played cricket with the Templemore civilian team, as the town had only enough males to form one football team and barely two cricket sides.[32] [33]

During this time, John, son of John Guest (1786-1864) Esq, a Town Commissioner and associated with Sir John Carden, Chair of the Templemore Town Commission,[34] attended the local grammar school at Abbey Manor Templemore and played for the school cricket team, which eventually evolved into the town's team, competing at the Abbey, and sponsored by Sir John Carden, playing matches against the Templemore Garrison teams. [35] The image of the Abbey cricket field below is sourced from Dr. Patrick Bracken's 2014 book, "Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary" (Thurles, 2004):

It is from this field the Abbey (Tipperary) Grammar School Cricket team played matches and by the mid-1840s, progressed to play the Garrison sides mostly on the Garrison fields graduation to play for the Priory Cricket Club.[36] [37] [38] [39]

Students, including John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) first learned to play cricket and football on this same field when attending St Mary's Church of Ireland School. St Mary's school was founded in 1790 after the Carden family provided funds.

The school was located nearby. It is important to note further that whilst Church of Ireland establishment of the school Tipperary Grammar School in Templemore, with campuses elsewhere was open to Roman Catholic students attended albeit smaller in number and played for the school's sports team and the Templemore Citizen Cricket Club come Priory Cricket Club and the Templemore Citizen's Football Club. [40] [41]

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[32] *C.f.,* Reid, S, PhD 2014, Doctoral Thesis, "Cricket in Victorian Ireland 1848 - 1878: A Social History," University of Huddersfield.
[33] Garnham, N, 2004, Association football and society in pre-partition Ireland, Belfast, 2004), pp18-21.
[34] Mr John Guest (1786-1864) Esquire, Town Commissioner of Templemore, Sir John Caden, Chair - Post Office Dublin City and County Directory for the Year 1862, p1113. He is the author's 2nd great grandfather.
[35] Gleeson, S, 2020, On Dr Patrick Bracken's research, "The rise of cricket in 19th century-Tipperary" TippFM online.
[36] Ibid, Bracken, P, PhD, 2024, 2018; Gleeson, S, 2020; Reid, S, PhD, 2014.
[37] National Library of Ireland, Abbey, Manor, Templemore, Co. Tipperary. Photographer, Robert French 1841-1917. Catalogue reference: https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000319692.
[38] Ibid, Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, p279.
[39] Ibid, Tipperary Free Press, 22nd April 1840.
[40] Ibid, Bracken, P, 2014, p39.
[41] Bracken P, 2004, pp 1-2, Cricket and Football in Templemore, Library of Templemore.

It was John's father, also John Guest (1786-1864) Esq, along with his brother, publican James Guest (1788-1853), Esq, and their friend and in-law, Minchin Rudd, (1809-1884) Esq, having married the John Kidd Guest's paternal cousin Hannah Rudd, nee Guest, with Rudd being notable Miller and Wine & Spirit Maker, [42] [43] [44] who also worked with officers from the Templemore Garrison at the Guest family hotel, to establish a basic set of rules for friendly games to proceed.

These humble rules are seen as a precursor to the GAA code and springing from injury complaints by civilian youths, playing a prior harvest match against soldiers accustomed to soccer style sliding into their opponents' lower legs to free the ball, circa 1847. [45]

Grass roots recruitment of players and match organisation Citizens v Garrison teams

How The Guest family's presence in the small market town have led to the recent erection of a historical plaque in the town, although it not specifically addresses the sporting history that emerged from these buildings:

5
"This house and concern belong to the Primitive Wesleyan Society. It is held under lease from Mr. John Guest at 10£ per year. Mr. Charles Skuse is the present preacher and occupies the dwelling house and offices."
8
"Mr. Guest keeps a grocery and general assorted shop. Has 8 Irish perches of a garden. Paid 200£ for the premises.
Built 56 years."

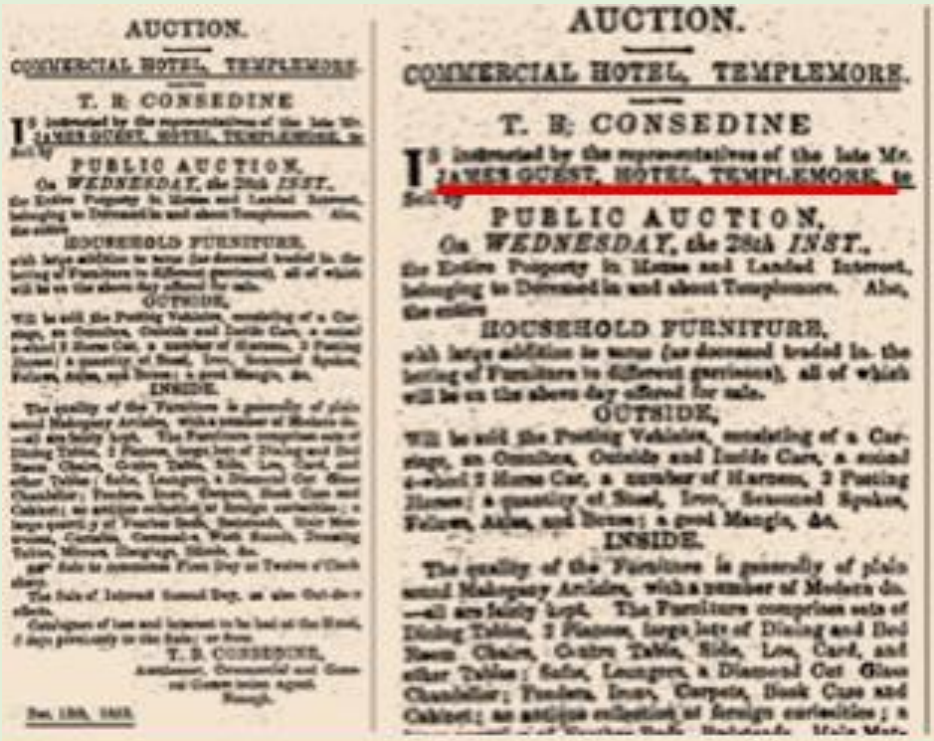
[42] Rudd, N.N 1989, An Irish Rudd Family, 1760 - 1988. Progeny of Gordon Arthur Rudd & Alicia Wellwood, Rathsarn Parish, Queens County, Ireland - Rudd Origins and Other Irish Rudds, by Norman N. Rudd [Mariam A. Rudd editor 1989].

[43] Ireland, Encumbered Estates, 1850-1885 - Name & Residence of Tennant: Minchin Rudd, Esquire; Residence Date: 1848; Residence Place: Whitefield, Garranbane, Tipperary, Ireland; Role: Tenant; Denominations: Part of the lands of Whitefield and Garranbane; Tenant: John Connolly, representative of Minchin Rudd; Quantity of Land, Statute measure: A. 64; R. 3; P. 7; Yearly Rent: £ 50; s. 9; d. 0; Gale Days (days that rent would be collected): 1st May and 1st November; Tenure of Tenant: Lease dated 30th October 1835, from Henry Irvine and others, to Minchin Rudd, for term of 99 years, from above date.

[44] Ireland, Encumbered Estates, 1850-1885 - Name & Residence of [Sub]-Tennant: John Connolly [probable close blood relative of Matilda Guest, nee Connolly];Denominations: [Sub]-Part of the lands of Whitefield and Garranbane Tenant: John Connolly; Quantity of Land, Statute measure: A. 3; R. 0; P. 23; Yearly Rent: £2; Gale Days: 1st May and 1st November; Tenure of Tenant: Lease dated 30th October 1835, from Henry Irvine and others, to Minchin Rudd, for term of 99 years, from above date [Author's].

[45] "Australian and Irish Football-Cricket Connection - Guest - White & Bracken Families": A collection of email letters between J.L.R. Guest, Genealogical Researcher, Historian & Author and Dr. Patrick Bracken, Sports Researcher, Historian & Author and Professor Mike Cronin, PhD, Academic Director, Boston College, Dublin.

If one is to consider the Guest's family's oral history of Templemore and nearby Cloughjordan Tipperary passed down by Guest family centurion Kathleen Pierce (1924-), nee Guest, still active in life in Wexford Ireland, posted on the windows and walls of the Guest grocer and draper stores and the Guest family hotel (James Guest's 1788-1853, Commercial Hotel) was the player lists for the upcoming match against the Garrison sides. The pub was located: on Patrick Street, previously named George Street, Templemore, specifically at the intersection of Georges Street and Templemore Demesne:[46]



AUCTION.

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, TEMPLEMORE.

T. B. CONSEDINE

Is instructed by the representatives of the late Mr. JAMES GUEST, HOTEL, TEMPLEMORE, to Sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION,

On *WEDNESDAY*, the 28th *INST.*,

the Entire Property in House and Landed Interest, belonging to Deceased in and about Templemore. Also, the entire

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

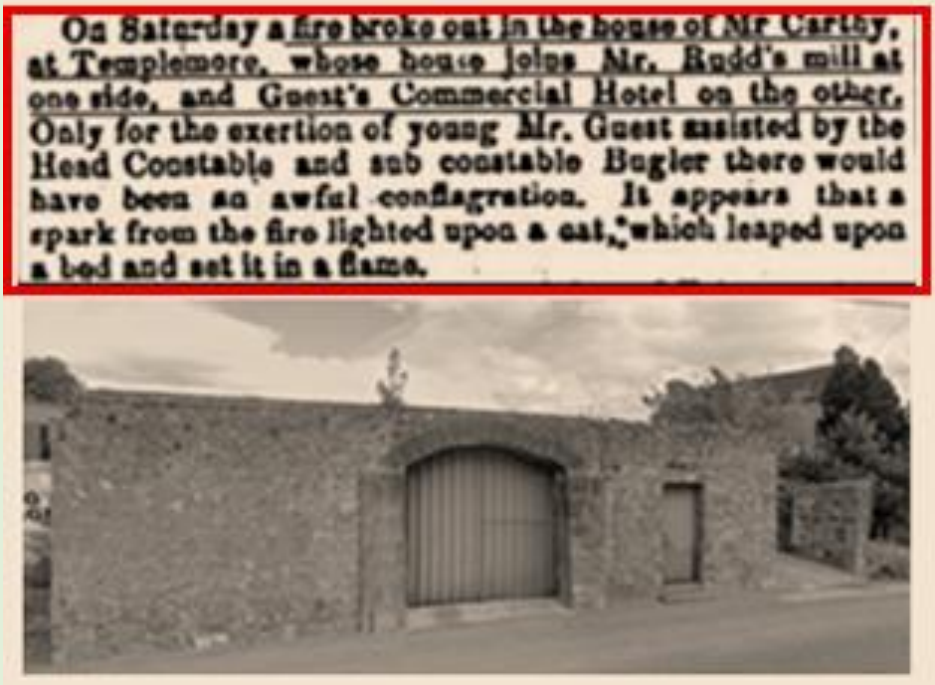
with large addition to same (as deceased traded in the letting of Furniture to different garrisons), all of which will be on the above day offered for sale.

OUTSIDE,

Will be sold the Posting Vehicles, consisting of a Carriage, an Omnibus, Outside and Inside Cars, a small 4-wheel 2 Horse Car, a number of Harness, 2 Posting Horses; a quantity of Steel, Iron, Seasoned Spokes, Felloes, Axles, and Boxes; a good Mangle, &c.

INSIDE.

The quality of the Furniture is generally of plain usual Mahogany Articles, with a number of Modern do.—all are fairly kept. The Furniture comprises sets of Dining Tables, 2 Pianos, large lots of Dining and Bed Room Chairs, Centre Tables, Side, Low, Card, and other Tables; Sofas, Lounges, a Diamond Cut Glass Chandelier; Fenders, Irons, Carpets, Book Case and Cabinet; an antique collection of foreign curiosities; a



On Saturday a fire broke out in the house of Mr Carthy, at Templemore, whose house joins Mr. Rudd's mill at one side, and Guest's Commercial Hotel on the other. Only for the exertion of young Mr. Guest assisted by the Head Constable and sub constable Bugler there would have been an awful conflagration. It appears that a spark from the fire lighted upon a cat, which leaped upon a bed and set it in a flame.

[46] Auction by representatives of the late Mr JAMES GUEST, COMMERCIAL HOTEL, TEMPLEMORE, Nenagh Guardian, Wednesday December 14, 1853.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

John Kidd Guest's (1831-1871) grandfather, also named John Guest (c. 1758-abt. 1824) from Templemore, was the in the family to supply uniforms to the Garrison through his Draper and Clothier Store, starting as early as 1815. By around 1823, the store was taken over by John Guest (1786-1864), from his father, and this is the store mentioned on the blue plaques above.

Brothers John Guest (1786-1864) and James Guest (1788-1853) began organising local lads to play pre-GAA Irish football more consistently, establishing a regular schedule of friendly matches against the Garrison teams. This marked the time when John Guest, Clothier of Street, Templemore, Tipperary, started providing sporting uniforms for the Templemore civilian football and cricket teams while also outfitting the increasing number of Garrison teams.

The Bracken family and the North Melbourne Football Club

Dr. Patrick Bracken (2024) recognises the Guest family of Templemore as being a positive influence on the town's youth, both Anglo-Irish and Indigenous Irish and of different faiths participating in regular football and cricket matches. He views them as essential to the early development of organised football, cricket, and other sports such as hurling and athletics in the market town since the late 1830s for harvest festivals and from the mid-1840s fixtured games against the Garrion teams.

Patrick is a member of the illustrious Bracken family of Templemore, perhaps tarnished from Patrick Bracken (1830-1897) - *the elder's* - grandson Brendan Bracken (1901-1958) and tarnished depending upon the competing political narrative for him you may subscribe, with Patrick the elder and his son, Brendan's father, J.K. Bracken (1852-1904), *successively* both members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB);[47] and Patrick the elder, a schoolboy and cricket and footballer team mate of the younger J.K. Guest (John Kidd Guest 1831-1871).

Patrick Bracken's friend, John Kidd Guest, formerly of 34 Leveson Street, Hotham, Colony of, Victoria was married to Matilda [Mary Ann] Mangham Guest (1835-1884), née Connolly. After his passing, they became the parents-in-law of Bridget, née Costello. [48]

Matilda Guest, nee Connolly played a key role in arranging her eldest's marriage to Bridget Costello, and while no letters have survived, the marriage—which required Bridget to migrate to Melbourne around the time of Matilda's death in 1884—suggests that there was ongoing communication between the Guests in Hotham/North Melbourne and their family and social networks in Templemore, Tipperary, even though 13 years had elapsed since the death of Matilda's husband, John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), who also died in Melbourne at the Guest family home on Leveson Street.

[47] McGee, O, 2005, The IRB: The Irish Republican Brotherhood from The Land League to Sinn Féin, Four Courts Press, 2005.
[48] Bridget Costello of Templemore Tipperary married William Langford Guest (1860-1922) in Melbourne in 1885.

Dr. Patrick Bracken's ancestor, J.K. Bracken (1852-1904), is honoured in the name of the GAA Club, celebrating Joseph Kevin Bracken (1852-1904) from Templemore. History in Ireland is kinder to J.K Bracken than his son Brendan remembering his virtues as a RBA man and one of the seven founding members of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in 1884. Jospeh is pictured below: [49]

His contributions have however, been somewhat been eclipsed by his son, Brendan Bracken (1901-1958), fame or infamy depending on your personal view. Brendan strangely identified as Australian, despite him roaming to live in Australia in Melbourne, Echuca Victoria and Grenfell and Orange NSW for less than three years.

Regardless of one's political view of Brendan Bracken's (1901-1958), by any reason person's perspective, he had a most fascinating life. His father equally so, but as noted above he has faded somewhat from the minds of many in Ireland overshadowed about his sons competing political biographies subject of recent documentaries.

Joseph Kevin Bracken (1852-1904), is the uncle of Lochlan James Bracken, North Melbourne, Albert Park and Carlton player, and his brother - Billy Bracken, Albert Park, Carlton and Norwood football club and state representative for South Australia [inter-colonial representative] uncle – J.K. Bracken (1852-1904), and was the inaugural Chairman of the Tipperary County Board (TCB), and served as vice president of the GAA, making him the longest-serving member of the national executive.

Joseph was also an elected representative and chairman of the Templemore Urban District Council, alongside his involvement with the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). This makes Brendan, Lochie and Billy Bracken's cousins of a rising generation.

These genealogical antecedents, cluster migrations of these Templemore families - to which the author is compelled to add James White senior and his son also named James involved also in the formative years of the North Melbourne Football Club 1859-1888 – and football and cricket antecedents tied to North Melbourne Cricket and Football Club make for a fascinating personality perspective to North Melbourne Football Club's Irish ancestry and how the seeds of the Templemore Citizen-Garrison rules were planted at Royal Park from 1860.

[49] Some famous Templemore people, Templemore History, J.K. Bracken.

From evidence submitted thus far and to follow, North's preferred player numbers for scratch matches sides from 1860 were far less than the large numbers for the clubs preferring the Eton style of Australian rules at the time. The Irish influence fading from memory since the 1930s involved no more than generally 16 players per team when evenly matched. When a team was stronger than the opponent the junior side permitted more players up to 23 players able to take to the field. Despite ignorance of Irish Templemore rules banned from 1847 was shin kicking and this was not allowed in Graham's paddock come Royal Park giving prominence to Irish verbal irony, North as the "shin boners," i.e. artful at disposing of the ball from the opposition player's legs without inflicting injury to the opponents' legs.

Unusual and controversial politics – The Templemore connection and pioneer North members

Hoping for the reader's appreciation here that the present author's wandering away from the football history evidence to follow, that the British political history and namely the life of Sir Winston Churchill, is the part of Brendan Bracken's (1902-1958) life - believe it or not to be true story – after visiting the Bracken family in Australia and perhaps making a nuisance of himself – is tied to the early North story of its Anglo-Irish and Indigenous Irish members of various denominations.

Permitted this wander, Brendan subsequently settled in England after returning back to his home town of Templemore, and then befriends Sir Winston Churchill. Such was their enduring friendship, Sir Winton Churchill as Britain's war time Prime Minister could not have survived unless his right-hand man Brendan remained acutely involved in all matters concerning Britain's administration and war time effort.

Sir Winston Churchil is tied to the Guest of Melbourne, the senior branch of the Tewkesbury stem and Winston and in-law by marriage to the Guest of Wimborne of England, the senior branch of the Handsworth stem. These two ancient stems share the same parent stock, the Guest family of Kings Norton, England.

The Brendon Bracken family tree reveals that his grandfather Patrick Bracken (1830-1897) a lifelong friend of John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), is the father of Joseph Kevin Bracken a founding father of GAA Gaelic Irish rules football. John Kidd Guest played alongside Patrick and his brothers and was certain to have unknown infant son J.K Bracken before leaving to settle in Melbourn in 1857. Patrick's brother James Bracken (1831-1887) also a lifelong close friend of John's in Templemore and Melbourne, tow son Lochie and Billy Bracken also had ties with the North Melbourne Football Club. Patrick however remained living in Templemore. [50] John Kidd Guest, James Bracken (1831-1887) and Patick no doubt shared their love of the developments of the pre-GAA Irish and early Australian rules games and the two codes divergence, through now lost letters.

[50] de Burca, M, 2004, pp 234-235, J.K. Bracken Centenary: A Reflection, Tipperary Historical Journal.

Maintaining connections

His grandson Brendan Bracken's brother James Bracken and his wife, Ann, emigrated to Victoria with their children to join John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) (J.K. Guest), and wife Matilda Guest (1835-1884), nee Connolly and their growing family prospering as it seems.

Many years later, Brendan's uncle, Thomas Bracken (1865-1947), a younger brother of Joseph Kevin Bracken (J.K. Bracken), and a cousin therefore of Patrick and James Bracken, also immigrated to Australia, eventually settling in Grenfell, New South Wales.

Thomas welcomed his nephew Brendan Bracken in 1915, when he turned up at the door unannounced in Echuca, Victoria after searching for his older cousins, brothers, Lochie and Billy Bracken who expired a few years earlier.

Thomas and his family later moved from Echuca, Victoria to Grenfell NSW in 1916 and Brendan eventually joined them after staying in Grenfell on route to join a Jesuit society in Orange, NSW, before returning briefly to Tipperary. He then rejoining his mother in England. About 12 years after Brendan left Australia, in 1930 Brendan's brother, Reverend Kevin Bracken, also migrated to Australia in 1930, but passed away shortly after he arrived in Norwood, South Australia, laid to rest in 1931. Meanwhile, during the 1860s James and Ann Bracken of Albert Park remained close friends with ex-pat Templemore man, John Kidd Guest and his wife Matilda Guest, nee Connolly.

Lochie and Billy Bracken – Early great Australian footballers

Albert Park not far from Hotham, about 4 kilometre's is where James and Ann raised their sons, two notable footballers, Loughlin "Lochie" James Bracken (1855 -1910) and William "Billy" Bracken (1857-1911). Both sons were both born in Templemore, Ireland and both played a single season for North Melbourne, Lochie in 1871 and younger brother Billy in 1877.

Prior Lochie was a notable player and official with Albert Park and with the Carlton Football Club, where Billy is celebrated as an outstanding player before moving to Australia.

Documentaries s about Brendan Bracken and Sir Winston Churchill

Hence, the Bracken family is fascinating, marked by a wide range of political and religious differences, with Brendan's life particularly intriguing for those interested in how he became a confidant of Sir Winston Churchill.

His story is explored in a short documentary by Adrian Bracken, a descendant of Bracken family progenitor of all the family lines mentioned above, Loughlan Bracken and Elizabeth Bracken, née Langley. Adrian is a professional historian and filmmaker. The present author recommends his documentary because it extends the factual narratives forementioned and draws upon the Bracken's family history dove detailing with the fresh evidence gathered in Australia and presented above ere in context of North Melbourne Football Club's earlier pioneer members Guest and Bracken families.[51]

[51] Churchill's Secret Son – A Winston Churchill Documentary, Timeline - Public domain, You Tube.